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Watson's Art Journal.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPT. 7, 1867.

PUBLICATION OFFICE, 806 BROADWAY.

GOSSIP OF THE ARTS.

The Richings' English Opera Company commenced the Fall season at Albany, N. Y., last Monday evening. The company has been strengthened by the addition of Mrs. Marie Abbott, who will divide the principal roles with Miss Caroline Richings. This is Mrs. Abbott's first operatic engagement, but she has qualities which well fit her for her new position. She has a charming voice, a fine appearance, *esprit*, and an ambition to excel. We expect to hear that she has made a decided success.

We are pleased to hear that the new management of the Olympic Theatre has secured the services of Mr. William Davidge. He is one of the few sterling actors of the old school still left upon our stage. He is in every sense a thorough actor, reliable, versatile and excellent in all he undertakes.

Miss Clara Louise Kellogg, with her mother, left for Europe last week. We believe that she does not go upon any engagement, but her brilliant and well-earned reputation here will enable her to choose for herself, for she will unquestionably have offers from every quarter. The managers abroad will not be slow to perceive the business advantage of a rival excitement—American against American—Kellogg *versus* Patti. It would be daring the favorite in her palace, but there is stuff in Miss Kellogg which excitement and opposition will develop, far exceeding all her efforts here.

It is positively stated that, that thorough, admirable and estimable artist, Madame La Grange, is at this moment on her way to this country. We trust this rumor is true. When it is confirmed, we shall have more to say upon the subject. It is also said that Max Strakosch will control her movements as manager.

H. Balling, the well-known artist, is at work at Dr. Chapin's church, in Union square, upon the illustrations of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, the exhibition of which will open in that church, about the first of October next. Several of our most eminent artists are also engaged upon the work, which promises to be of great interest to the public and to Art. We shall recur to this enterprise in a future issue.

The Statue of Edwin Forrest, in the character of Coriolanus, executed by Ball, is now on exhibition at Boston.

The New York Mendelssohn Union held its first meeting for the season, at the

Art Gallery corner of Fourteenth street and Fifth avenue, last Thursday evening, Sept. 5th. Mr. George F. Bristow's new Grand Oratorio, "Daniel," was put in rehearsal under the direction of the composer. This fine work will be produced before Christmas.

G. W. Carleton & Co. have just issued a novel entitled "Renshawe," by the author of *Mary Brandegee*.

G. P. Putnam & Co. announce that on the 1st of January, 1868, they will revive that sterling and favorite serial, *Putnam's Monthly Magazine*.

Mr. John Oxenford, of the *London Times*, the well-known journalist and author, is at present in New York. We believe he has no special business in coming here, his visit being simply one of pleasure. Being a man of observation, he will, doubtless, find much to admire in the institutions of our country, especially as to the glorious results of universal suffrage. He will find no bought-up voters here. Every man votes according to his conscience, and thus secures the return of men of education, intelligence and integrity to represent us in our State and National Legislative assemblies. As England has recently enfranchised a moiety of her white slaves, his observations on the working of our free institutions may be valuable in giving direction as to the use of their newly-acquired privileges. A close study of our Press, too, will enlighten him as to the proper system of conducting a newspaper. He will find that sterling integrity, firm adherence to principles, freedom from advertising influence, and high-toned courtesy, form the basis upon which that noble structure is raised. It is to be hoped that Mr. Oxenford is above those small prejudices which distinguish the British Lion, and that having found those things, will make a note of them, and on his return, will govern himself accordingly.

Mr. Dolby is also here, and Mr. Dolby has imparted the pleasing intelligence, that Charles Dickens will shortly visit America. The *Home Journal* says, that Dolby is a large, robust, fine looking Englishman—that he has visited Mouquin's—that he went there with Osgood, who is not married yet—that he thinks we beat the English in making salads; and then wonders, if Dolby concedes so much in our favor, what will Charles Dickens say? We wish we could answer this question of our good friends of the *Home Journal*, but we think it really hard to guess at what Dickens will say. It is probable, however, that he will say something much more to the purpose.

The *Waterbury Daily American* says:—

"At the morning service in St. John's church Miss Maria Brainerd sang with the choir. She is visiting friends in this city during her vacation from St. Bartholomew's church, New York, where she is the leading soprano singer. It was evident that her voice

has lost none of its richness and sweetness. Miss Brainerd has not only a really fine voice, but she has also the attributes which characterize the finished artist, viz.: faultless vocalization, perfect command of her voice, and an enthusiasm of expression which is the natural and inevitable exponent of all musical feeling. Miss Grace Perkins of this city, a niece of Miss Brainerd's, has been for several months studying music in New York, and to great advantage. In the afternoon service she was the leading soprano and did herself credit. She has a good voice and promises to become a fine singer.

"Mr. C. F. Daniels of Bridgeport, formerly organist of Christ church in that city, and recently returned from Europe, where he has been studying, presided effectively at the organ. Mr. Daniels is a talented young organist and an accomplished musician."

SUMMER NIGHT'S FESTIVAL.

The New York Leiderkranz Society held their Summer Night's Festival at Lion Park, on Friday evening the 30th ult. It was to have taken place on Thursday, but the rain opposed it, and luckily Friday evening proved auspicious in every way. This large and wealthy society spares no expense to give eclat to their entertainments, and that of Friday evening was no exception to the rule. The Park was turned into a fairy palace, blazing a thousand lights from every available point. Its appearance is thus felicitously described by a contemporary:

"The *coup d'œil* of the trysting ground of the jolly Teutons from the avenue was a sufficient earnest of the good things in store for all who ventured so far from their domiciles to lose themselves for a while in an Elysian whirl of dance, song and other intoxicating entertainments. The broad path leading up to Lion Park was covered with twenty-four brilliant arches of light. On each arch hung twenty-five lanterns, and a lighted balloon in the centre. A pyramid, fifty feet in height, was erected on each side of the entrance. This pyramid was resplendent by the glare of three hundred lanterns, and on the top a Bengal light shed dazzling splendor on the scene. Besides the lanterns, each arch held Roman candles, which flung the various colors of light like a rainbow across the Park. Two ropes, stretching from the Belvidere of Lion Park to the gate, were laden with two hundred lanterns; five rows of lights encircled the Belvidere itself, and another string of lanterns stretched from the flagstaff to the roof. Every tree in the vicinity bore a crop of lights, and in the front of the hotel myriads of lanterns twinkled as if in emulation of the stars above. The stream of carriages still poured in, and at eleven o'clock the carriageway from the avenue was pretty well filled. At that moment the band of Mr. Bernstein crashed forth a hymn of joy, in which the voices of the assembled crowd joined; a signal was given and a new line of